

§103(a) over Inomata et al.; and claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Inomata et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,977,006 to Iguchi et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As the Office Action suggested at page 9, the prior art of record does not teach, disclose or suggest "wherein the internal electrode layers are separated by a distance of no more than the size of at least one particle of said particles," as recited in claim 1, and as recited in the newly added claim 20.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over the applied references. The dependent claims are likewise patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Claim 20 recites the patentable claim feature. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), §102(b) and §103(a) be withdrawn.

**III. THE CLAIMS OBVIATE THE DOUBLE PATENTING
OBJECTION UNDER 35 C.F.R. §1.75**


The Office Action objects to claims 4, 6, 11, 13 and 15 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claims 3, 5, 10, 12 and 14. In response, claims 4, 6, 11, 13 and 15 are canceled to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 is respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 14 and 16-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment:
Appendix

Date: April 23, 2003

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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 15 are canceled.

Claim 20 is added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

1. (Three Times Amended) A multilayer ceramic capacitor comprising:
internal electrode layers; and
dielectric layers, the dielectric layers comprising particles, wherein an average particle diameter (R), in a direction parallel with said internal electrode layers, is larger than a thickness (d) of said dielectric layer, wherein a ratio (R/d) between said average particle diameter (R) and the thickness (d) of said dielectric layer satisfies $1 < R/d < 3$, ~~and~~ wherein the thickness (d) of said dielectric layer is less than $3\mu\text{m}$, and wherein the internal electrode layers are separated by a distance of no more than the size of at least one particle of said particles.

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